

REMARKS

Claims 24, 29, 38-41, 44 and 45 were rejected by the Examiner as being obvious over Cunetto in view of Suzuki. Applicants have carefully considered this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

Independent claim 24 relates to a telecommunications network in which *traffic* is carried and routed. Claim 24 is not concerned with *signaling* at all.

For a person of ordinary skill in the art, there is a fundamental difference between signaling and traffic in a telecommunications network.

Signaling is used to set up and terminate real or virtual circuits in a telecommunications network, and *not* to transfer the traffic. When a user wants to make a voice call over a telecommunications network, a connection has to be established before any voice is transmitted. The network must know who is calling (phone number 1), and who is the intended recipient of the call (phone number 2) in order to set up the real or virtual circuit. For some network services, other parameters, for example, quality of service (QOS) of the required connection are also set up. This is all done using signaling. During signaling, no voice or traffic is transmitted.

Cunetto's disclosure is all about *signaling*. In col. 6, line 58 - col. 7, line 3, Cunetto makes it clear that signaling is used to establish a circuit (SVC 15 in Fig. 2) and, as is clearly explained by Cunetto in this paragraph and drawing, signaling and traffic are two *different* things (element 14 vs. element 15 in Fig. 1).

The Examiner in his rejection of the claims relied upon the signaling feature disclosed by Cunetto. Even if one of ordinary skill in the art were to combine the teachings of Cunetto and Suzuki as suggested by the Examiner, then the resulting solution would be about signaling, and not

about *traffic*. In consequence, the resulting combination would be different from the invention defined in claim 24. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the present claim 24 is novel and non-obvious over this art, as are all the dependent claims.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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